

AS

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 96-349-E - ORDER NO. 97-112  
FEBRUARY 7, 1997

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IN RE: Joint Petition of South Carolina Electric ) ORDER  
& Gas Company and Fairfield Electric ) GRANTING  
Cooperative, Inc. for Reassignment of ) REASSIGNMENT  
Territory in Richland County. ) OF CERTAIN  
 ) AREAS IN  
 ) RICHLAND  
 ) COUNTY

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Joint Application of South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) and Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Fairfield) for reassignment of certain areas in Richland County, South Carolina. The Application was filed pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. Section 58-27-640 et. seq. (Supp. 1996).

By letter, the Commission's Executive Director instructed SCE&G and Fairfield to publish a prepared Notice of Filing, one time, in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected by the Application. The Notice of Filing indicated the nature of the Application and advised all interested parties desiring participation in the scheduled proceeding of the manner and time in which to file the appropriate pleadings. SCE&G and Fairfield were likewise required to notify directly all customers affected by the request for reassignment. No Protests or Petitions to

Intervene were received.

The four areas involved include areas within northeast Richland County: one in the vicinity of Langford Road near Blythewood, South Carolina, and three subdivisions known as the The Summit, Woodcreek and The Lakes. SCE&G and Fairfield request this reassignment of territory to allow territorial equity, customer service reliability and suppliers' efficiency. According to the Application, the joint proposal provides for a new, more efficient arrangement of service rights by the suppliers in the three subdivisions. Additionally, the Application asserts that the new service to the Langford Road area by Fairfield would provide for greater reliability.

Pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. Section 58-27-650(A) (Supp. 1996), the Commission, upon agreement of the affected electric suppliers, is authorized to reassign to one electric supplier any area or portion of the area assigned to another, upon a finding that the reassignment is required by public convenience and necessity. According to the statute, in determining whether public convenience and necessity require the reassignment, the Commission shall consider, among other things, the adequacy and dependability of the service of the affected electric suppliers. The Commission also notes that the statute allows for a hearing, if a hearing is requested. No hearing has been requested in the present case.

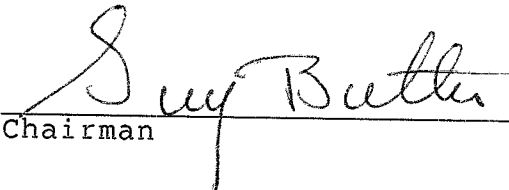
The Commission has examined the entire record of this case, including the maps of the proposed reassignments, and finds that

the public convenience and necessity would be served by granting the reassignment as requested by SCE&G and Fairfield. We hold that the reassignment as requested will allow territorial equity, customer service reliability, and suppliers' efficiency. We also hold that a new more efficient arrangement of service rights by the suppliers in the three subdivisions mentioned will occur, if the joint application is granted. Further, it appears from the record that the new service to the Langford Road area by Fairfield would provide for a greater reliability of service.

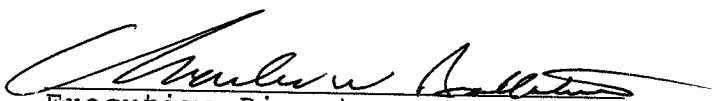
Based on the above stated reasoning, we find that the reassignment is required by the public convenience and necessity, and we hereby grant it as requested.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)